

Appl. No. : 10/688,135
Filed : October 17, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) A directing sheath comprising:

(a) a proximal portion with a proximal end;

(b) a distal portion with a distal end;

(c) a central portion between the proximal portion and the distal portion comprising at least two openings that extend generally traverse to a longitudinal axis of the directing sheath; and

(d) a lumen extending through the directing sheath from the proximal end to distal end generally along the longitudinal axis of the directing sheath and intersecting the at least two openings;

where the directing sheath is scored along its longitudinal axis to allow the directing sheath to be split into two separate halves and dividing the lumen by peeling the directing sheath apart at either its proximal end or its distal end or both along the scoring.

12. (Original) The directing sheath of Claim 11, further comprising a radiopaque filament running the longitudinal length of the directing sheath from the proximal end to the distal end and passing around each opening in the central portion.

13-35. (Canceled)

36. (New) The directing sheath of Claim 11, wherein the lumen is configured to receive a guidewire.

37. (New) The directing sheath of Claim 11, wherein the directing sheath is scored completely through a sheath wall of the directing sheath

38. (New) The directing sheath of Claim 11, wherein the directing sheath is scored completely through a sheath wall of the directing sheath along two opposing lines

39. (New) The directing sheath of Claim 11, wherein the directing sheath is scored partially through a sheath wall of the directing sheath

40 (New) The directing sheath of Claim 11, wherein the directing sheath is scored partially through a sheath wall of the directing sheath along two opposing lines

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41. (**New**) The directing sheath of Claim 11, wherein the directing sheath comprises a biocompatible polymer.

42. (**New**) The directing sheath of Claim 11, further comprising a radiopaque filament that passes around each opening in the central portion.

43. (**New**) The directing sheath of Claim 11, wherein the at least two openings are sized substantially the same as a portal on a bone screw.

44. (**New**) A directing sheath comprising:

a body extending along an longitudinal axis, the body having a proximal portion with a proximal end; a distal portion with a distal end, and a central portion between the proximal portion and the distal portion;

a longitudinal lumen extending through the directing sheath from the proximal end to distal end generally;

at least two openings that extend through the central portion of the generally traverse to a longitudinal axis of the directing sheath intersecting the longitudinal lumen; and

where the directing sheath is scored along its longitudinal axis to allow the directing sheath to be split into two separate parts and dividing the longitudinal lumen by peeling the directing sheath apart at either its proximal end or its distal end or both along the scoring.

45. (**New**) The directing sheath of Claim 44, further comprising a radiopaque filament running the longitudinal length of the directing sheath from the proximal end to the distal end and passing around each opening in the central portion.

46. (**New**) The directing sheath of Claim 44, wherein the lumen is configured to receive a guidewire.

47. (**New**) The directing sheath of Claim 44, wherein the directing sheath is scored completely through a sheath wall of the directing sheath

48. (**New**) The directing sheath of Claim 44, wherein the directing sheath is scored completely through a sheath wall of the directing sheath along two opposing lines

49. (**New**) The directing sheath of Claim 44, wherein the directing sheath is scored partially through a sheath wall of the directing sheath

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50. (New) The directing sheath of Claim 44, wherein the directing sheath is scored partially through a sheath wall of the directing sheath along two opposing lines

51. (New) The directing sheath of Claim 44, wherein the directing sheath comprises a biocompatible polymer.

52. (New) The directing sheath of Claim 44, further comprising a radiopaque filament that passes around each opening in the central portion.

53. (New) The directing sheath of Claim 44, wherein the at least two openings are sized substantially the same as a portal on a bone screw.